WITCHES' TALES

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THE HORROR-PACKED TERROR OF THE SCREAMING CORPSE

STAY OUT OF MY GRAVE!

PLUS

THE GROTESQUE FEAR OF THE

BLOODY TEN FINGERS

PLUS

OTHER FEARSOME AND STRANGE WITCHES TALES

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STAY OUT OF MY GRAVE!
SIMON
THE RAIN PELTED DOWN HARD OVER THE GRASS-COVERED EARTH, SUDDENLY FROM UNDERNEATH A WET, GLISTENING TOMBSTONE CAME A HAND....IT GROPED AND TWISTED AND CLUTCHED. THEN THE SOFT, BLACK MUD SLIPPED AWAY AS THE HIDEOUS CORPSE BROKE THROUGH....LEAVING THE GRAVE BEHIND IT....

SLOWLY AND TORTUOUSLY, THE CREATURE SHUFFLED FORWARD....THROUGH THE BLACK NIGHT...

IT TURNED. ITS SHUFFLE INCREASED IN TEMPO...

IT TRUDGED THROUGH THE MUD...

A TOWN'S LIGHTS TWINKLED THROUGH THE RAIN. THE CREATURE HEADED THERE...

IN THE TOWN, A MAN SETTLED BACK IN HIS CHAIR. HE WAS A NIGHT WATCHMAN.

THE MAN'S ONLY COMPANY IN HIS SHACK WERE THOUGHTS.... AND DREAMS...

SUDDENLY, THE WATCHMAN FROZE, HIS BLOOD STAGNATING WITH FRIGHT. A FIGURE STOOD BEFORE HIM...

Y-YOU'RE DEAD! I--I KILLED YOU FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!
I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME, HUGH. OTHERWISE I'LL NEVER REST IN PEACE!

KEEP AWAY FROM ME! I--I WARN YOU!
COME, HUGH! COME WITH ME!...IT'S TIME!

YOU CAN'T COME BACK... AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! YOU CAN'T!

THE BULLETS PIERCED THE DECAYED BODY WITH THREE SICKENING THUDS...
IT'S...NO USE, HUGH! I'M DEAD... REMEMBER? COME WITH ME! I BEAR YOU NO GRUDGE!

HUGH BACKED INTO A CORNER, STILL HOLDING THE SMOLDERING GUN...
HUGH! LISTEN!
NO... NO...

...ITS RANK ODOR SUFFOCATED HUGH...
HUGH!
GET AWAY...

WITH DESPERATION BORN OF TERROR, HUGH TOOK THE FIRE AXE AND SWUNG...

AND SWUNG AGAIN...

AND AGAIN....

HUGH BEAT AND HACKED AND HAMMERED AT THE RED, PULPY MESS ON THE FLOOR...

HUGH LIKED THE SILENCE ABOUT HIM...THE DEATHLY SILENCE THAT SWATHED HIM IN SOFT BILLOWS...

HE LOOKED AT THE THING IN FRONT OF HIM UNTIL HE COULDN'T LOOK AT IT ANY LONGER. HE TURNED HIS BACK AND BURIED HIS FACE IN HIS HANDS...

SUDDENLY A HAND GRABBED HUGH FROM BEHIND....

HUGH STRUGGLED AGAINST THE VILE CREATURE...

HUGH'S STRUGGLING WAS TO NO AVAIL AS THE ROTTING THING DRAGGED HIM AWAY...

HUGH HEARD THE SWEET LOLL OF THE WAVES WASHING ON THE SHORE....

HE FOUGHT WITH THE ENERGY OF A MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT TO DIE...

HE GOT THE UPPER HAND... PUSHING THE CORPSE'S FACE UNDER WATER...

HUGH LISTENED—THERE WAS NO SOUND. BUT SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF THE WATER CAME THAT LIVID HAND OF DEATH....

THE HAND CLAWED AT HIM... CLUTCHED AND TIGHTENED... GRABBING HIS SHIRT...THE FOG OF FEAR OVERCAME HUGH, BLACKING HIM OUT...
NO! NO!

WHEN HUGH AWOKE HE FOUND HIMSELF BEING DRAGGED BACK... ...TO THE GRAVEYARD.
WE'RE GOING BACK TOGETHER, HUGH! YOU MUSTN'T BE FRIGHTENED!
WHA---T? PLEASE! OH, PLEASE.. ...SIMON... LET ME GO...

THE CEMETERY CALLED. THE CHIMES RANG OUT, THE GRAVE BECKONED.
LET ME GO, SIMON... I'LL DO ANYTHING!

THERE WAS NO TIME, ONLY MOVEMENT, HUGH SCREAMED...
PLEASE... HAVE PITY! OH... HAVE PITY!
COME, MY FRIEND!

HUGH COULD NOT BREAK FREE FROM THE GRASP OF THE PUTRID CORPSE....
DON'T DO THIS TO ME! LET ME FEEL THE AIR AND LIFE IN MY LUNGS! PLEASE!
I CAN'T HUGH, YOU KNOW THAT!

NO... NO... NO...
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, YOU'VE LIVED WHILE I ROTTED. AND NOW IT'S TIME TO ADMIT TO YOURSELF THAT YOU TOO...

...HAVE BEEN...

...DEAD!
THE END

A STRANGE, GRUESOME OBSESSION OFTEN MANIFESTS ITSELF IN ALL AGES AND IN ALL COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN SOME RELIC OF A PERSON WHO HAS OBTAINED NOTORIETY! IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES IN ENGLAND THERE WAS A FAD FOR COLLECTING THE HANDS OF EXECUTED CRIMINALS! THE EXECUTIONER AT NEWGATE DERIVED A MOST CONSIDERABLE REVENUE FROM THE HORRIBLE CRAZE...

I'LL GO AS HIGH AS TWENTY-FIVE GUINEAS FOR BOTH HANDS!

HE WUZ A BAD 'UN...THAT STOKES MURRY! SEEMS AS IF HANDS LIKE THEM SHOULD BRING MORE'N OTHERS!

BLOODY TEN FINGERS

AT LAST DR. PAXTON LAYNE STRUCK A BARGAIN THAT SATISFIED THE EXECUTIONER! STOKES MURRY'S HANDS WERE HIS!

HERE YOU BE, SIR! YOU'RE A LUCKY ONE!

I'M SURE OF THAT!

STEPANICH 10

AS SOON AS DR. LAYNE REACHED HIS OFFICE, HE PUT THE HANDS THROUGH A PRESERVING PROCESS...

THE EXECUTIONER WAS RIGHT! WHAT A PRIZE! THE TWO HANDS OF A MAN LIKE STOKES MURRY!

THAT NIGHT...
I HAVE INVITED DOCTOR DENNIS AND LORD ORSLEY OVER TO SEE MY PRIZE!

THAT'S STRANGE! THERE ARE NO DOORS OPEN, BUT I FEEL A DRAFT!

THE NEXT MOMENT...
AAGGHHH!

DR. DENNIS AND LORD ORSLEY ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES LATER...
LOOK! IT'S PAXTON... SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM!

THESE MUST BE THE HANDS HE INVITED US TO SEE! BUT WHY SHOULD THEY BE ON THE FLOOR?
PAXTON HAS BEEN STRANGLED!

SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE BROKEN IN JUST AS PAXTON WAS LIFTING THESE HANDS OUT OF THE PRESERVING FLUID!
AND WHEN THE ROBBER HEARD US ARRIVE, HE FLED! POOR PAXTON!

MANY MILES AWAY FROM THE UNMARKED GRAVE OF AN EXECUTED CRIMINAL, A SINISTER FIGURE STRUGGLES TO THE SURFACE...
MY HANDS! WHERE ARE MY HANDS? I WILL NOT LEAVE THE EARTH UNTIL MY HANDS BELONG TO ME AGAIN!

WHILE BACK IN DR. PAXTON LAYNE'S HOME...

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THESE HANDS?

PUT THEM IN A BOX WITH PAXTON'S BELONGINGS UNTIL HIS RELATIVES DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THEM!

THE GRISLY BOX OF HANDS WAS PLACED IN A CHEST! WHEN DR. LAYNE'S SISTER-IN-LAW ARRIVED...

I CAN'T BOTHER LOOKING THROUGH THAT CHEST NOW! PUT IT IN THE ATTIC!

THE YEARS PASSED, AND THE CHEST WAS FORGOTTEN!

MY HANDS! I WANT MY HANDS! I CANNOT GO BACK TO THE GRAVE WITHOUT THEM!

MANY YEARS PASSED! THE 20TH CENTURY WAS USHERED IN! THE LONDON BLITZ IN WORLD WAR II DESTROYED THE OLD LAYNE HOUSE...

A YOUNG U.S. MEDICAL OFFICER, MACK DOYLE GOES THROUGH THE WRECKAGE LOOKING FOR BODIES...

ODD LOOKING BOX! MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING OF VALUE IN IT! I'LL TAKE IT ALONG!

THAT NIGHT MACK OPENED THE BOX...

A PAIR OF HUMAN HANDS! CAN YOU BEAT THAT! AND THE MOST POWERFUL-LOOKING MITTS I'VE EVER SEEN!

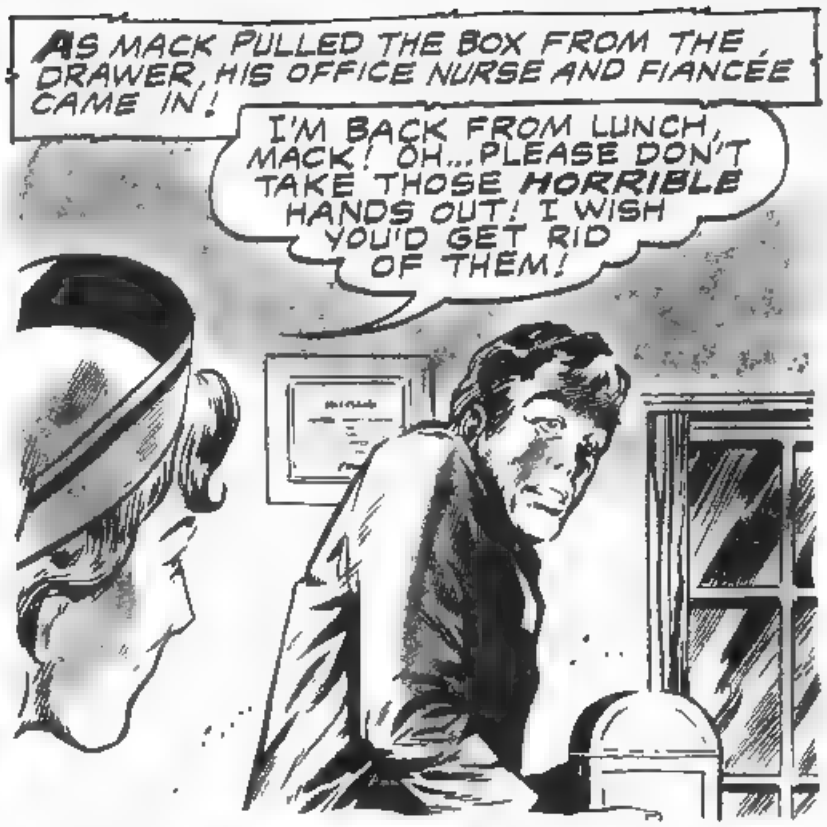
I'LL KEEP 'EM AS A SOUVENIR AND TAKE 'EM BACK TO AMERICA WITH ME!

WHEN HIS SERVICE WAS OVER, MACK DOYLE RETURNED TO HIS OWN COUNTRY AND HAD HIS OWN MEDICAL PRACTICE! HE KEPT THE HANDS IN THEIR BOX... BUT, ONE DAY...
HEY! WHO ARE YOU? AREN'T YOU IN THE WRONG PLACE, BUDDY?
I...WANT... MY...HANDS!
UGH! YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING WE USED TO DISSECT IN MEDICAL SCHOOL... ONLY WORSE!
GIVE...ME... MY...HANDS!

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING ALL RIGHT, YOU ZOMBIE! TAKE THIS!
YIIEEE!
THE SOONER I GET RID OF WHATEVER YOU ARE... THE BETTER!
MY HANDS! GIVE THEM TO ME! THEN I'LL GO!

YOU'LL GO ALL RIGHT! DOWN THIS CHUTE INTO THE INCINERATOR WHATEVER YOU ARE...
THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
FOOL! YOU CANNOT KILL THE DEAD! I WILL RETURN FOR MY HANDS!

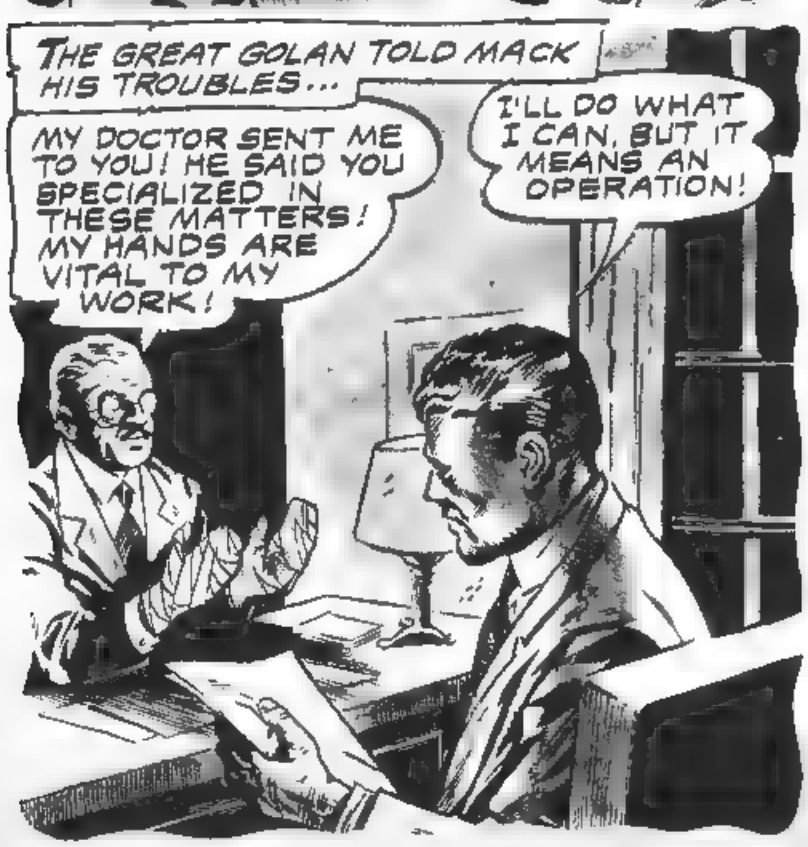
IF IT HADN'T HAPPENED TO ME, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT! THAT HORROR! ...I WONDER IF THESE HANDS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT? HE HAD NO HANDS!


AS MACK PULLED THE BOX FROM THE DRAWER, HIS OFFICE NURSE AND FIANCÉE CAME IN!
I'M BACK FROM LUNCH, MACK! OH...PLEASE DON'T TAKE THOSE HORRIBLE HANDS OUT! I WISH YOU'D GET RID OF THEM!

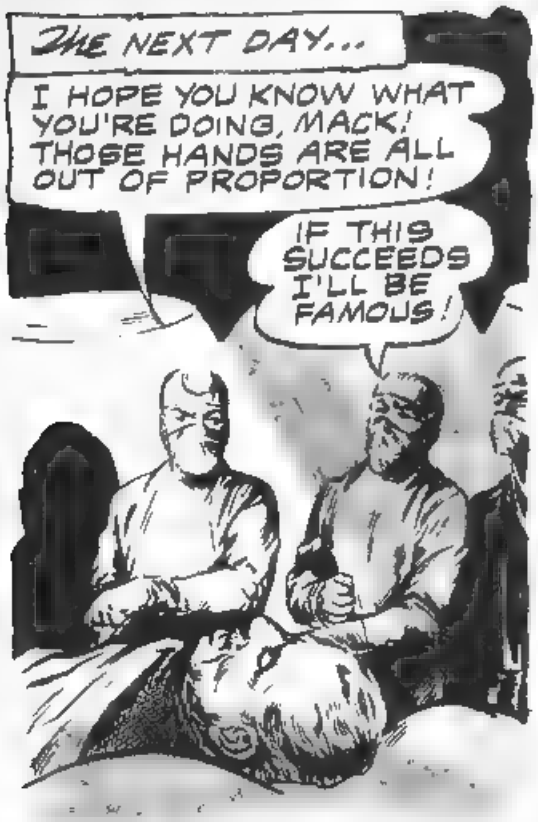
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OFFICE?
OH, JUST A PATIENT WHO BELONGS IN A PADDED CELL! I GOT RID OF HIM!

THIS MUST BE YOUR DAY FOR STRANGE PATIENTS, DEAR... THE GREAT GOLAN IS HERE!
WHO IS HE?

A MAGICIAN! IT SEEMS HE HURT HIS HANDS BADLY IN GETTING OUT OF A PAIR OF HANDCUFFS!
SEND HIM IN!


THE GREAT GOLAN TOLD MACK HIS TROUBLES...
MY DOCTOR SENT ME TO YOU! HE SAID YOU SPECIALIZED IN THESE MATTERS! MY HANDS ARE VITAL TO MY WORK!
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, BUT IT MEANS AN OPERATION!

I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL THE POOR GUY HE MAY LOSE BOTH HANDS! I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF I COULD GRAFT ON NEW HANDS AND MAKE THEM WORK...SAY...THOSE HANDS IN THE DRAWER?


THE NEXT DAY...
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MACK! THOSE HANDS ARE ALL OUT OF PROPORTION!
IF THIS SUCCEEDS I'LL BE FAMOUS!

A FEW WEEKS LATER...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS BEEN DONE!
THESE ARE MY HANDS? OH, NO! NOT THESE MONSTROSITIES! MY HANDS WERE SUPPLE... MAGICIAN'S HANDS!

THE HANDS SEEMED TO ACT OF THEIR OWN VOLITION AS GOLAN SWUNG AT MACK!
YOU HAVE RUINED ME WITH YOUR EXPERIMENTS!
TAKE IT EASY!

NO! NO! WHAT AM I DOING? I AM NOT A KILLER! AND YET... I CANNOT STOP! MY HANDS REACH FOR YOUR THROAT AND WILL NOT LET GO!

HE'S DEAD!
MR. GOLAN! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? EEEOOWW!

AGAIN THE HANDS REACHED OUT, DRAGGING GOLAN WITH THEM...
ARRGGHH!
THE HANDS... THEY ARE THROTTLING HER! I CANNOT STOP THEM!

MY HANDS! GIVE ME MY HANDS!
AIEEEE! WHO ARE YOU? GO AWAY! AM I NOT BEING TORTURED ENOUGH?

BY THE TIME THEY REACHED GOLAN'S BODY, THE FIGURE LEANING OVER HIM WAS GONE! THE HANDS THAT HAD BEEN CUT OFF BY THE STREETCAR WERE NEVER FOUND!

THE END

IT WAS A STRUCTURE OF METAL...OF CONCRETE. IT WAS MATERIALISTIC...NATURALISTIC. YET IT WAS MORE THAN A....

HAUNT

IT IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE LONDON BRIDGE...AND A CAR RACES DOWN THE BRIDGE...

WELL, THAT ROBBERY WAS A CINCH! BUT ISN'T IT TOO BAD THAT WE'VE GOT TO SPLIT THE BANK'S MONEY, RAND?

HEH! YOU'RE QUITE A JOKER, MORLEY!

THEN THE CAR SUDDENLY COMES TO A HALT...FOUR MEN GET OUT.

WHAT THE...! MORLEY!

I WASN'T KIDDING, RAND---I'D RATHER SPIT THE LOOT ***THREE*** WAYS THAN ***FOUR!***

MORLEY! I-- **AIIIEEE!!**

HAPPY LANDING, RAND! ***HA-HA!***

THE FALL HORRIBLY MASHES JOHN RAND'S NECK...
...DYING...CAN'T BREATHE...THEY SHALL PAY...FOR...

AGGRRAA...

AND LATER THAT NIGHT....
HA-HA! IT'S TOO BAD RAND COULDN'T BE WITH US TO SHARE THE PROFITS, ISN'T IT?
YES...TOO BAD INDEED!

THINGS WENT WELL FOR THE THREE MEN...AT LEAST FOR A YEAR, BUT THEN ONCE AGAIN ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE BRIDGE...

REVENGE!
AIIEEK! IT'S HORRIBLE!

IT'S GHASTLY!
AIIEEE!

THE VISION HAS A PURPOSE...AND THE VISION FINDS ITS GOAL!
IT'S.... WHAAAAAA!

REMEMBER ME, ODEM?
YOU'RE DEAD! KEEP AWAY!

BUT THE VISION DOESN'T KEEP BACK... IT HAS A TASK TO PERFORM!
WE KILLED YOU! YOU'RE--! AIIEEE!

AGGGRAAA!
CAREFUL, ODEM! YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE LONDON BRIDGE!

REVENGE! GOODBYE, ODEM...REVENGE!

FOR ANOTHER YEAR, THE GRAVE IS SILENT. BUT ONCE AGAIN ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONDON BRIDGE, A ROTTED CREATURE TAKES TO THE NIGHT...
REVENGE UPON THEM!

...AND FINDS MURDOCK MORLEY'S SECOND HENCH-MAN.
I...WHAAAAA!

AIIEEE!
REMEMBER ME, DO YOU, MURDOCK?

KEEP AWAY! KEEP AWAY!

WE KILLED YOU ONCE, RAND! WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!
I'M COMING FOR YOU, MURDOCK!

MURDOCK RAN---UNTIL THERE WAS NO OTHER PLACE TO RUN...
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, RAND! I'LL...WHAAAA! THE WATER!

AIEEEE! I'M TRAPPED!

AND THE FANTASTIC ASSOCIATION BETWEEN JOHN RAND AND THE LONDON BRIDGE CONTINUES!

YES, IT IS ONCE MORE A YEAR TO THE DAY LATER .. ...AND A LONE AIRPLANE IS LOST IN THE ENCOMPASSING LONDON FOG! ITS LONE OCCUPANT IS ***ENOS MORLEY!***

IF I DON'T....WHAA! THE BRIDGE...!

YES, FATE HAS A FUNNY WAY...

IT EVEN HELPED MORLEY OUT OF THE BATTERED PLANE!
I...I'M SWALLOWING WATER...

HAVING TROUBLE STAYING AFLOAT, MORLEY? I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D JOIN ME? HEH-HEH-HEH!

RAND! NO, IT CAN'T BE! AGGGRRRAA! I'M SINKING! HELP ME... AGGGRRAAA!

AND ENOS MORLEY'S BROKEN BODY IS WASHED TO THE SAME SUPPORT AS THE MOCKING APPARITION....BUT ALL THAT REMAINS ARE THE BONES OF JOHN RAND! BONES THAT HAVE BEEN THERE THREE YEARS TO THE DAY!
THE END

BURN, MISER, BURN

JEREMIAH! JEREMIAH! HURRY UP! YOU'RE LATE! JEREMIAH!

YES, MOTHER! I'M COMING!

YOUR NAME IS JEREMIAH COURTLAND! YOU'RE 33 YEARS OLD AND RIGHT NOW YOU'RE IN A TERRIBLE HURRY!

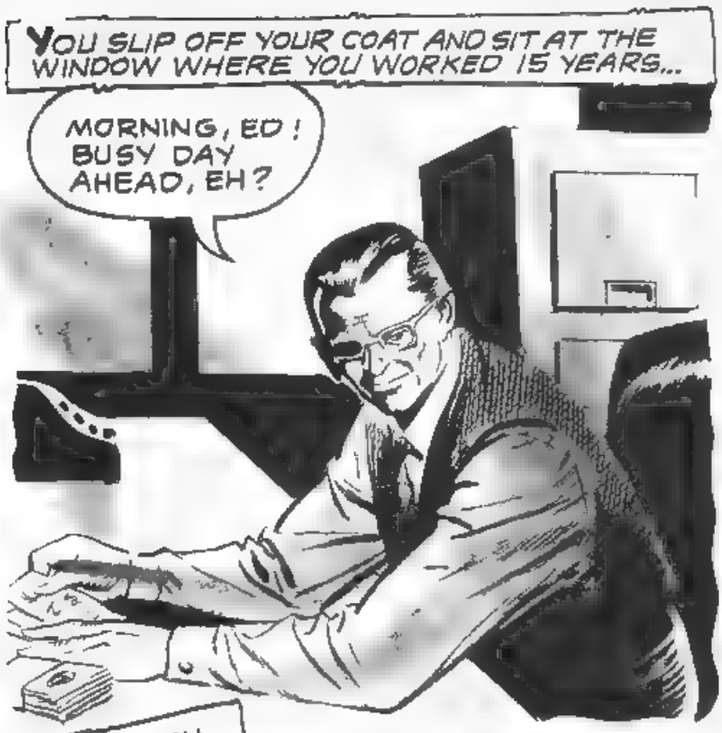
IT'S 8:50... YOU'VE GOT JUST TEN MINUTES TO GET TO THE BANK! PUT ON YOUR RUBBERS AND TAKE YOUR UMBRELLA! IT MIGHT RAIN!

YES, MOTHER.

AN INSTANT LATER YOU START DOWN THE STREET...

WHY CAN'T SHE LET ME MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS! IT ISN'T GOING TO RAIN TODAY!

BUT YOUR IRRITATION DOESN'T LAST JERIMIAH! YOU LAPSE INTO DEPRESSION!
'MORNING, MR. COURTLAND!
GOOD MORNING, HENRY!

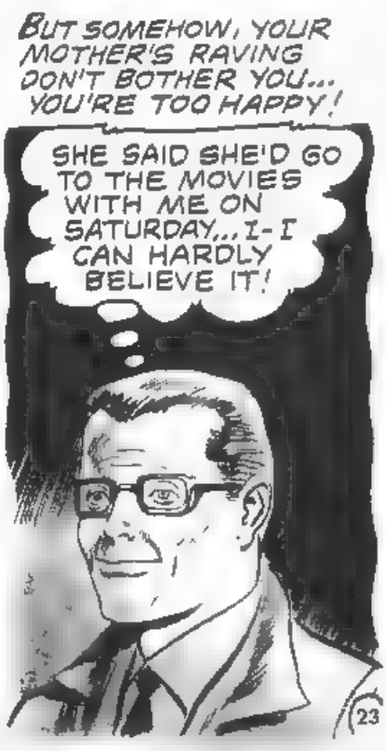

YOU SLIP OFF YOUR COAT AND SIT AT THE WINDOW WHERE YOU WORKED 15 YEARS...
MORNING, ED! BUSY DAY AHEAD, EH?

BUT INSTEAD OF EDWARD RAYMOND, YOU HEAR A STRANGER...
I'M SORRY, BUT MR. RAYMOND WAS TAKEN ILL! I'M REPLACING HIM TEMPORARILY!
OH...ER...EXCUSE ME... I MEAN... ER... HOW DO YOU DO?

SUDDENLY YOU FEEL DIFFERENT! YOU NO LONGER FEEL DEPRESSED, YOU FEEL WONDERFUL!
SHE'S A PRETTY LITTLE THING! IT'S...IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE SO PRETTY NEARBY!

YOU BREEZE THROUGH THE DAY, BUT THAT NIGHT WHEN YOU GET HOME...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU'RE TWENTY MINUTES LATE!
SORRY! I WALKED HOME A NEW GIRL AT THE BANK!

GIRL? YOU'VE GOT NO TIME FOR GIRLS, YOUNG MAN! YOU'VE GOT YOUR MOTHER TO SUPPORT, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!


BUT SOMEHOW, YOUR MOTHER'S RAVING DON'T BOTHER YOU... YOU'RE TOO HAPPY!
SHE SAID SHE'D GO TO THE MOVIES WITH ME ON SATURDAY... I-I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!

SATURDAY COMES, AND THEN, THE DAYS AND THE WEEKS FLY BY... YOU'RE IN LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE...
OH, JERRY, I LOVE YOU SO!

IF ONLY YOUR MOTHER WOULD GIVE YOU SOME PEACE, YOUR LIFE WOULD BE COMPLETE...
JEREMIAH, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING MARRIAGE! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME... HOW WOULD I LIVE?

MOTHER, THE HOUSE IS BIG ENOUGH FOR THE THREE OF US! NATURALLY, I WILL STILL SUPPORT YOU!
BUT... BUT... OH, ALL RIGHT, SON... BRING HER TO SEE ME!

DAYS LATER...
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, ALICE, THAT JEREMIAH IS MY SOLE SUPPORT! YOU WILL OBTAIN VERY LITTLE BY MARRYING HIM! WE'RE POOR PEOPLE!
MOTHER!

I THINK SHE SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH, SON! ALICE, JEREMIAH BARELY MAKES ENOUGH MONEY NOW TO SUPPORT HIMSELF AND ME... LET ALONE, A WIFE!
I INTEND TO KEEP MY JOB! THERE'LL BE ENOUGH MONEY!

YOU'RE PROUD OF ALICE AND YOU TELL HER SO...
MOST WOMEN THINK THAT WHEN THEY MARRY, THEY WON'T HAVE TO WORK ANYMORE! ALICE, YOU'RE A WONDERFUL GIRL!
I'M NOT WONDERFUL, JERRY, I'M USED TO WORKING!

IN MY FAMILY, WE'VE NEVER HAD ANY MONEY! WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO PAY THE MORTGAGE ON OUR LITTLE HOUSE FOR TEN YEARS... AND WE STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED!

YOU KISS ALICE GOOD NIGHT AND GO HOME...YOUR LIFE SEEMS PERFECT UNTIL YOUR MOTHER GREETS YOU...
SHE'LL NEVER BE FAITHFUL TO YOU! I KNOW THE TYPE... ALL SHE WANTS IS MONEY!

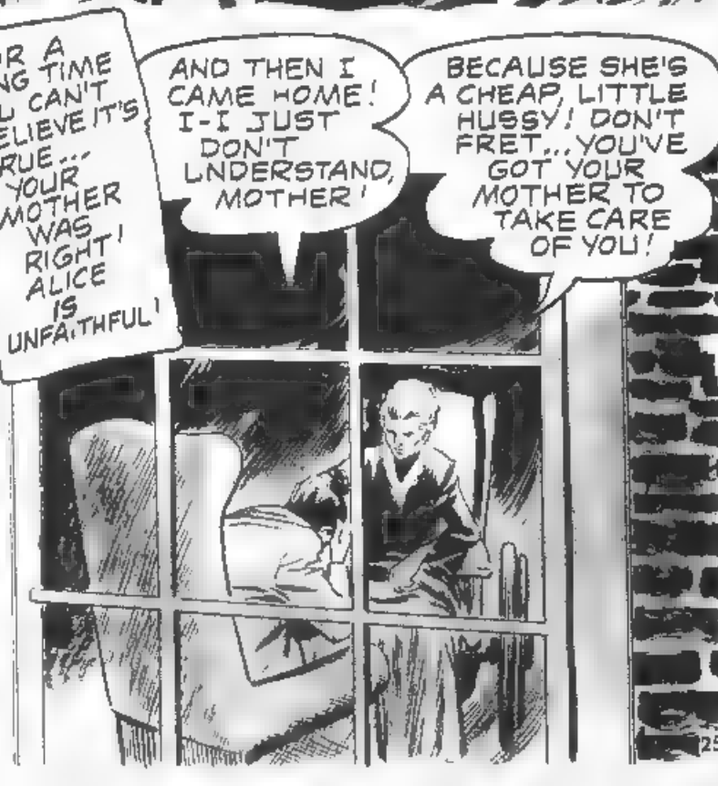
FOR GOD'S SAKE, MOTHER... STOP IT! ALICE WON'T BE UNFAITHFUL! SHE LOVES ME! SHE'S NOT MONEY-HUNGRY... YOU ARE!

THAT NIGHT
NOW THAT EDWARD'S BACK, I MISS NOT SEEING ALICE DURING THE DAY! POOR KID... THIS IS SUCH A BAD NEIGHBORHOOD! IT'LL DO HER GOOD TO GET OUT OF HERE!

BUT WHEN YOU REACH ALICES...
ALICE!

YOU RUSH TO THE PORCH SCARCELY AWARE OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING...
LET GO OF HER OR I'LL...
J-JERRY!
YOU'LL WHAT, JUNIOR? BEAT IT! BEFORE I BREAK YOU IN TWO!

YOU HEARD WHAT I SAID... SCRAM!
OH, JERRY (SOB) I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE THIS WAY!


FOR A LONG TIME YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE... YOUR MOTHER WAS RIGHT! ALICE IS UNFAITHFUL!
AND THEN I CAME HOME! I-I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, MOTHER!
BECAUSE SHE'S A CHEAP, LITTLE HUSSY! DON'T FRET... YOU'VE GOT YOUR MOTHER TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!

LIFE GOES BACK TO THE DREARY STATE OF MISERY AND DEPRESSION...

JEREMIAH, COME RIGHT BACK IN HERE AND PUT ON YOUR RUBBERS! IT IS SUPPOSED TO RAIN TODAY!

YES, MOTHER..

BUT AS UNHAPPY AS YOU ARE, YOU'RE NOT PREPARED FOR THE SHOCK, A WEEK LATER AS YOU OPEN THE MORNING PAPER!

DAILY ITEM

LOCAL GIRL KILLS SELF

ALICE NOLAN 24 SWALLOWS POISON

W-WHY, ALICE...WHY? W-WE COULD HAVE BEEN SO HAPPY... WHY?

YOU STAY LOCKED IN YOUR ROOM ALL THAT DAY, BUT FINALLY YOU GO DOWNSTAIRS...

I HEARD RUMORS IN TOWN THAT JEREMIAH WAS GOING TO MARRY THE NOLAN GIRL, SARAH!

DR. LANE'S HERE... B-BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM OR ANYBODY!

YOU TURN AND HEAD BACK UPSTAIRS AND FREEZE AT THE WORDS YOU HEAR...

YES, BUT I PUT A STOP TO IT! THE GIRL WAS WORTHLESS...I'M GLAD SHE'S DEAD!

YOU DON'T MEAN THAT!

OH, BUT I DO! I NEED JEREMIAH, DR. LANE! I NEED HIS INCOME TO SUPPORT ME!

BUT WHY, SARAH? WHEN SAM DIED, HE LEFT YOU OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS!

JEREMIAH DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT MONEY...AND I DON'T WANT HIM TO! A SON SHOULD TAKE CARE OF HIS MOTHER!

IT WAS SIMPLE TO GET RID OF THE GIRL! I BOUGHT THE MORTGAGE ON HER FAMILY'S HOUSE... AND THREATENED TO FORECLOSE IF SHE DIDN'T DROP JEREMIAH!
I FORCED HER TO ARRANGE AN "UNFAITHFUL" SCENE TO CONVINCE JEREMIAH THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM! HA! HA! IT WORKED LIKE A CHARM!
YOU TURN AND GO UPSTAIRS IN A STATE OF SHOCK...
WITH THAT FOOL GIRL DEAD, MY SON IS MINE AGAIN, AND MY MONEY IS SAFE!
ALL MY LIFE YOU'VE RULED ME, MOTHER... BUT NOW...
YOU GO INTO YOUR MOTHER'S ROOM AND SEARCH UNTIL YOU FIND WHAT YOU WANT... AFTER DR. LANE LEAVES YOU RETURN DOWNSTAIRS...
JEREMIAH, YOU LOOK SO STRANGE... MY STRONG BOX? WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
YOU OPEN THE BOX AND GRAB HOLD OF HER HEAD...
YES, MOTHER DEAR, I'VE GOT YOUR MONEY! BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO KEEP IT! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MONEY-HUNGRY... NOW EAT IT!
DON'T LOOK FRIGHTENED, MOTHER... I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU! I'LL STAY WITH YOU... JUST LIKE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED!
IT'S THE NEXT MORNING... YOU CAN'T HEAR WHAT THE SHOCKED TOWNSPEOPLE ARE SAYING! "YOU'RE DEAD"!
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND! SARAH WAS SUCH A GOOD MOTHER! SHE DID EVERYTHING SHE COULD FOR JEREMIAH'S HAPPINESS!
TH-THEY SAY HE DID IT...
THE END

Horror Harbor

OUT OF THE SEA THEY CAME, DREADFUL DROWNED THINGS IN SEARCH OF VENGEANCE! MALIGNANT EYES, IN SLIME-COVERED FACES, FOLLOWED EVERY MOVEMENT OF THE NEWCOMERS TO BARTLEY MANOR! AND NEARBY, BROODING IN THE STORM, WERE THE FEARFUL ROCKS KNOWN AS **THE WEIRD WOMEN...**

AS DUSK FALLS, JAMES RANSOME AND HIS BRIDE OF A WEEK ARRIVE IN A VILLAGE ON THE CORNISH COAST...

TOBACCO Periodicals RENTING AGENT

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE WHERE I PICK UP THE KEYS, JANE! JUST BE A MINUTE!

GET THE LONDON PAPERS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, DARLING!

JAMES RANSOME GETS A STRANGE WARNING...

YOU SHOULD KNOW THE STORIES ABOUT BARTLEY MANOR, SIR! THEY AREN'T PRETTY! WEIRD THINGS HAPPEN, I'M TOLD! NOBODY WILL LIVE THERE!

SPLENDID! FINE! I'M DOING A NOVEL ABOUT THE OLD WRECKERS ALONG THIS COAST AND I CAN USE MATERIAL! BUT THANKS FOR THE WARNING!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WE MADE A GOOD CHOICE, JANE: WE'VE ALREADY BEEN WARNED AGAINST GHOSTS! HAH—HAH!
IT IS SILLY, I SUPPOSE! JUST THE SAME I DON'T—UGHH—LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS OLD HOUSE!

NONSENSE! FOR MY PURPOSE THIS PLACE IS IDEAL! I'LL DO A NOVEL ABOUT THE OLD WRECKERS THAT WILL MAKE THE CRITICS SIT UP!
GIVES ME THE SHIVERS JUST THE SAME! TO THINK—THEY USED TO LURE SHIPS TO THEIR DEATH RIGHT ON THIS SPOT!

SUDDENLY...
HAH-HAH-HO-HO-EEE-
JIM! LISTEN—THAT HORRIBLE LAUGHTER!
GREAT SCOTT! COMING FROM SOMEWHERE IN THIS HOUSE!

JIM FINDS A CANDLE STUB, AND...
SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM BACK HERE—MAYBE IN THE KITCHENS OR SERVANTS' QUARTERS!
OHH—I WISH WE HADN'T COME. I'M FRIGHTENED, JIM!
HAH-HAH-HE HO-HO-

A DOOR CREAKS AS IT SLOWLY OPENS...
AN OLD WOMAN!
OH!
HEE-HEE—COME IN, MY DEARS! YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID OF OLD BESS!

OLD BESS WON'T HURT YE! HAH-HAH! I KNOWED YE WAS COMING ALL THE TIME! COMING TO LIVE IN THIS HOUSE OF MURDER, BE YE? HO-HO—YE'LL BE SORRY! BLOOD BUILT THIS HOUSE AND BLOOD WILL DESTROY IT! HEE-EEE-EEEEE—

I'LL LEAVE YE BE NOW! OLD BESS JUST WANTED TO GET WARM! NOW I'LL GO BACK TO THE SEA!
TO THE SEA?
JIM! S—SHE MUST BE INSANE!

THE OLD CRONE VANISHES LIKE A WRAITH...
GONE! JUST DISAPPEARED! COME ON, JANE, WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE WAS DOING HERE!
M—MUST WE?

A MOMENT LATER...
THERE SHE IS! RUNNING TOWARD THOSE CLIFFS!
BUT THAT'S DANGEROUS! SHE MIGHT FALL OVER!

SHE DID FALL! RAN RIGHT OVER THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, JIM! THOUGH SHE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW! POOR OLD CREATURE!

YOU WERE RIGHT, JANE! MUST BE SOME POOR INSANE WOMAN THAT HAS BEEN LIVING IN THIS OLD HOUSE!
AND WE— WE DROVE HER OUT TO HER DEATH!

BUT...
SHE'S ALIVE! DOWN THERE ON THE BEACH!
YES! MUST HAVE USED THESE OLD STAIRS! UGH— THEY LOOK ROTTEN ENOUGH. BUT LET'S GET BACK TO THE HOUSE.

THE NEXT AFTERNOON...

THOSE ROCKS ARE CALLED THE WEIRD WOMEN! THE BARTLEYS, WHO BUILT THE MANOR, USED TO HANG LANTERNS ON THE ROCKS TO LURE SHIPS! THEY WRECKED SCORES OF SHIPS BEFORE THEY WERE CAUGHT AND HANGED!

LOOK AT THAT OLD HULK OUT THERE! MUST BE—UGH—ONE OF THE SHIPS!

UNDOUBTEDLY! THIS PLACE IS A GOLD MINE, JANE! MY NOVEL WILL BE THE MOST AUTHENTIC WORK ON THE WRECKERS THAT EVER...

JIM! LOOK! THE OLD WRECK!

NO-NO-NO-HAH-HAH-HE-EEE—

GAD! IT'S THAT CRAZY OLD WOMAN AGAIN!

AND SHE'S ON THAT WRECK, JIM! SHE MUST LIVE OUT THERE!

COME, MY DEARS! I KNOW YE WANT TO! COME AND VISIT OLD BESS ON HER SHIP! HAH-HAH-HEE-HEE-OLD BESS REMEMBERS! OLD BESS WAS THE ONLY ONE AS WASN'T DROWNED! COME!

JIM RANSOME FEELS A STRANGE COMPULSION TO TALK TO THE OLD HAG...

I MUST TALK TO HER, JANE! I SIMPLY MUST! THERE'S SOMETHING VERY ODD ABOUT ALL THIS — MAYBE SHE KNOWS SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP ME!

I WON'T STAY HERE ALONE! OH — BE CAREFUL OF THOSE STAIRS!

THEY REACH THE BEACH SAFELY AND...

SHE'S COMING TO MEET US, JIM!

MAYBE SHE'S NOT AS CRAZY AS I THOUGHT! I HOPE SHE CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS INTELLIGENTLY!

WITHOUT WARNING THE SKY DARKENS, AND A STORM BURSTS IN FURY...

H—HOW CAN A STORM COME UP SO QUICKLY, JIM?

STRANGE! BUT WE'LL RUN FOR IT AS SOON AS I HAVE A WORD WITH THIS OLD WOMAN!

HAH—HAH— A LOVELY STORM, MY DEARS! JUST LIKE THE ONE ON THAT NIGHT! THE NIGHT THEY WRECKED US! A TERRIBLE STORM IT WAS...

STRANGE EXCITEMENT MOVES IN THE MIND OF JIM RANSOME! AS A WRITER, HE SENSES A FANTASTIC STORY...

OLD WOMAN! BESS! DO YOU MEAN YOU WERE WRECKED ON THIS COAST?

AYE—THAT I WAS! ALL OF THEM DROWNED! ALL DEAD—BUT ME!

INCREDIBLE! THE LAST SHIP WAS WRECKED IN 1823! BUT...

SUDDENLY, JANE RANSOME SEES — **WHAT?**

JIM—LOOK BEHIND YOU! EEEEEEEE—

OH, JIM—JIM! **WHAT ARE THEY?**

THE D—DEAD, I'M AFRAID! COME BACK FROM THE SEA!

HAH—HAH— YER RIGHT, MY DEARS! ALL MY FRIENDS, DROWNED LONG AGO BY THOSE MURDERING WRECKERS! THEY HATE ANYONE WHO IS— **ALIVE!**

RUN FOR IT, JANE! **RUN!**

OHHH—

GET THEM, MY OLD FRIENDS! KILL THEM— MAKE THEM LIKE YOU! WHY SHOULD THEY LIVE?

HURRY— HURRY! THEY'LL TEAR US TO PIECES!

OHH—THE STAIRS SWAY SO! IF WE FALL...

AS THEY REACH THE TOP OF THE ROTTING STAIRS...
ONE CHANCE! IF I CAN—(GASP)—LOOSEN THESE OLD STAIRS THEY CAN'T GET TO US!
HURRY—HURRY! THEY'RE ALMOST TO THE TOP!

THERE! JUST IN TIME!
OH, THANK GOODNESS! THOSE HORRIBLE CREATURES!

A PITY I CAN NEVER WRITE THIS, BUT NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE IT! IMAGINE—THAT OLD CRONE WAS ACTUALLY WRECKED HERE IN 1823!
LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!

JANE RANSOME TURNS THEN—AND SCREAMS...
I—JIM! HELP! SHE'S HERE...
HA—HAH—HAH—HAH—YOU WON'T ESCAPE OLD BESS!
HUH! WHA...

DIE—DIE! EVERYONE MUST BE DEAD BUT ME!
JANE! MY—
EEEEEEE—

YOU MURDERING OLD HAG! I'LL SEND YOU WHERE YOU—(SOB)—BELONG! YOU K-KILLED JANE!
HEE—HEE—WE'LL ALL DIE SOON! OHH—HAH—HAH!

A SLIP OF JIM RANSOME'S FOOT AND HE FOLLOWS HIS WIFE INTO THE ABYSS...
GAAAAAA—
HEE—HEE—WE'LL BOTH BE KILLED! HAH—HAH—HAH!
IT SEEMS TO JIM RANSOME THAT EONS PASS BEFORE HE RECOVERS HIS SENSES. STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE IS ALIVE—OR IS HE?
OHHH—MY HEAD! BUT NO BONES SEEM TO BE BROKEN! AND I CAN'T REMEMBER JUST WHAT HAPPENED, EXCEPT THAT THE OLD CRONE AND I WERE...
DESPERATELY, HE SEARCHES THE LONELY SANDS...
I REMEMBER NOW! JANE FELL! JANE! WHERE ARE YOU? JANE!
SUDDENLY, JIM HEARS A SOFT SOUND, A CRY, AND WHEN HE TURNS...
JIM! HERE I AM! I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO ME! I WANTED YOU TO FOLLOW ME!
JANE! YOUR FACE! Y—YOU'RE LIKE THEM!
COME TO ME! WE ARE AS THEY ARE NOW! WE WILL LIVE TOGETHER IN THE SEA FOREVER!
NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE NOT JANE! YOU'RE SOME HORROR FROM THE PIT! STAY AWAY...
JAMES RANSOME STUMBLES, AND IN THE QUIET MIRROR OF THE SEA...
HUH! I—
AAHHHHHHHH—

THE MUMMIES

The STRANGER HAD KILLED SWIFTLY AND WELL! HE KNEW THAT DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES... AND **WALLS** DON'T SPEAK... EXCEPT WHEN THOSE WALLS CONTAIN A SECRET THAT SHRIEKS TO HEAVEN OF **HORROR** SO NAMELESS THAT ONLY THE DEAD CAN WHISPER IT... TO THE **DEAD!!!**

MANY PEOPLE HATE THE BIG CITY: EMILY BROWNE HATED IT BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T FIND IN IT THE PEACEFULL SOLITUDE SHE CRAVED...

"GETTING AWAY" MEANT NOT ONLY **DISTANCE**... BUT **PRIVACY!** THE MOST UNVISITED, UNINHABITED NEIGHBORHOOD WAS CONSIDERED TO BE **IDEAL** BY EMILY...

SO EMILY BROWNE MOVED INTO A PLACE WHERE NO VOICE WAS HEARD...NOT EVEN HER OWN! FOR EVEN EMILY'S THOUGHTS WERE SPOKEN INWARDLY!
HOW PEACEFUL IT IS! NO TRAFFIC, NO CROWDS... NO SALESMEN KNOCKING ON MY DOOR! JUST PERFECT, DELICIOUS QUIET!
WEEKS PASSED! NO ONE CAME AND NO ONE WENT! THE WEEDS GREW HIGHER! EMILY VENTURED OUT ONLY TO BUY THE VERY FEW THINGS SHE NEEDED...
I'LL SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS HERE. IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'VE WANTED ALL MY LIFE!
ONE NIGHT, WHILE SHE WAS NAILING UP A PICTURE...
T-THAT'S FUNNY! THE WALL'S GIVING AWAY!
CRUMBLE
GOOD GRACIOUS!...(GASP!)...T-TWO BODIES! THEY'VE BEEN HERE A LONG TIME! BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THE WALL? WHY AREN'T THEY BURIED...IN THE GRAVEYARD?
P-POOR THINGS. HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN WALLED UP? I IMAGINE THE REAL ESTATE AGENT DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE HERE, OR ELSE HE'D HAVE MENTIONED THEM TO ME!
I'M G-AD THEY'RE HERE. THEY DON'T MAKE A BIT OF NO SE... THEY STARE AT YOU BUT THEY DON'T SPEAK! WHATEVER YOU SAY IS ALL RIGHT WITH THEM!
COME, MY DEAR. YOU MUST BE TIRED STANDING THERE ALL THIS WHILE! REST YOUR TIRED BONES! I'D MAKE YOU TEA...BUT I KNOW YOU DON'T DRINK!

I'LL WAGER YOU'RE TIRED OF STANDING THERE SO LONG! GOOD GRACIOUS! YOUR BODIES ARE COLD! I'LL TURN UP THE FIRE!
THERE! THAT'S COSIER NOW, ISN'T IT? IT'S LIKE BEING ALONE WITH PEOPLE, WITHOUT PEOPLE! BECAUSE YOU CAN'T CALL THE DEAD PEOPLE! THE DEAD AREN'T PEOPLE AT ALL! THAT'S WHY WE CAN BE TRUE FRIENDS! WE WON'T QUARREL A BIT! IF ONLY I HAD DISCOVERED YOU SOONER!
AND SO BEGAN THE STRANGEST OF FRIENDSHIPS...
I JUST CAN'T KEEP CALLING YOU "YOU" ALL THE TIME! I'LL GIVE BOTH OF YOU NAMES! I'LL CALL YOU "ELLEN"...THAT WAS MY MOTHER'S NAME...AND YOU'LL BE "CECILY"...THAT WAS MY GRANDMOTHER'S NAME...

EACH EVENING EMILY TOOK THEM OUT OF THEIR RESTING PLACE! WHEN MIDNIGHT STRUCK, BACK THEY WENT INTO THE WALL!
YOU MUST BE TIRED, BOTH OF YOU! YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO ME SO PATIENTLY ALL EVENING... BUT DON'T BLAME ME... YOU BOTH HAVE SO LITTLE TO SAY! HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S REST!
VERY SOON EMILY BROWNE WAS TAKING HER COMPANIONS IN AND OUT OF THE WALL SO FREQUENTLY, SHE FOUND IT ADVISABLE TO ATTACH A DOOR TO THE WALL...
NOW I CAN SHUT YOU IN AT NIGHT FOR PRIVACY! SOLITUDE IS SUCH A PRECIOUS THING! I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!

ONE AFTERNOON WHILE EMILY WAS OUT SHOPPING... A STRANGER CAME TO THE HOUSE..
THEY WERE SAYING IN TOWN THAT SOMEONE WAS JIVIN' HERE! I GOTTA SEE THAT NOTHIN' WAS CHANGED! MINE AIN'T THE KIND OF SECRET OTHER PEOPLE CAN FIND OU-- (GASP!) THE STIFFS! THEY'RE GONE!
THEY WERE HERE! THEY COULDN'T HAVE WALKED AWAY! T-THEY WERE TAKEN OUT! SOMEBODY FOUND THEM! (GASP!)... T-THAT'S WHAT THAT DOOR MEANS! THERE WAS NO DOOR HERE BEFORE!
W-WHOEVER LIVES HERE... KNOWS I MURDERED THEM! T-THE SECRET'S OUT! (GASP!) THEY'LL LOOK FOR ME! I'LL BE HANGED! (GASP!) MY CHEST... UUGGGHHH!!

WHEN EMILY BROWNE CAME HOME THAT NIGHT SHE FOUND A STRANGE FIGURE LYING ON THE FLOOR..
GOOD GRACIOUS! WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

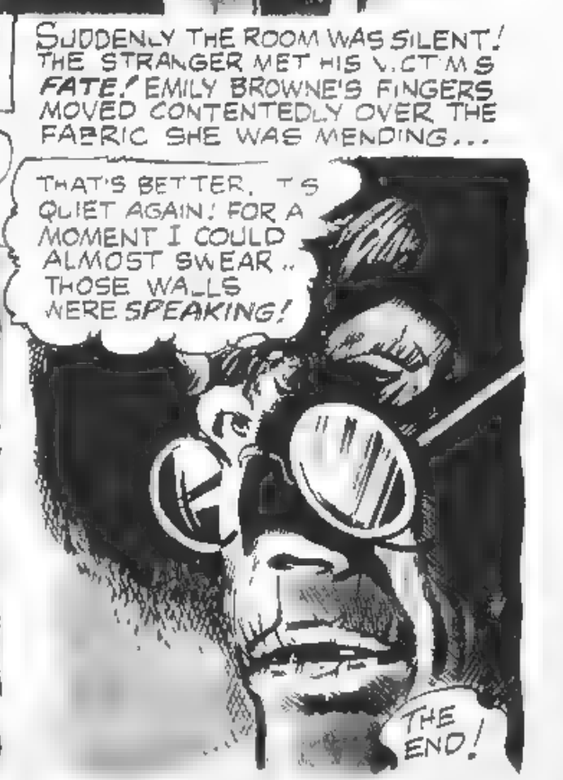
WAIT! HE MUST BE DEAD, TOO! HE MUST VE BEEN INSIDE THE WALL... MUST VE BEEN DEEPER WITHIN THE WALL... TUCKED AWAY FROM SIGHT!

FORGIVE ME FOR OVERLOOKING YOU! I'M GOING TO PUT YOU BACK IN THE WALL AND LOCK YOU UP FOR THE NIGHT! TOMORROW WE'LL TALK ALL ABOUT IT AND WE'LL BECOME GOOD FRIENDS. NOW YOU MUST ALL REST... IT'S BEEN A TRYING DAY!

IT WAS ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER THAT THE UNCONSCIOUS STRANGER CAME TO...
(GASP!)... I'M WALLED UP WITH THE STIFFS!.. LET ME OUT.. (GASP!) LET ME OUT... I'M SUFFOCATING! ...LET ME OUT!

QUIET, YOU NAUGHTY THINGS! YOU CAN'T COME OUT UNTIL THE MORNING! I'VE GOT A LOT OF MENDING TO DO.. AND EMILY DOESN'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED!
(GASP!) THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE!... S-SHE WON'T LET ME OUT! NO! NO!

THE STRANGER SHRIEKED.. THE STRANGER KICKED. THE STRANGER STRUGGLED... BUT THE DOOR DID NOT OPEN...
THE SHRIEKING WENT ON FOR A LONG WHILE. BUT EMILY BROWNE ONLY SHRUGGED AND SMILED...
I MUSN'T LISTEN TO THEM! I MUSTN'T SPOIL THEM! THEY'LL GET TIRED SOON AND GO TO SLEEP!
LET ME OUT!


SUDDENLY THE ROOM WAS SILENT! THE STRANGER MET HIS VICTIM'S FATE! EMILY BROWNE'S FINGERS MOVED CONTENTEDLY OVER THE FABRIC SHE WAS MENDING...
THAT'S BETTER. IT'S QUIET AGAIN! FOR A MOMENT I COULD ALMOST SWEAR.. THOSE WALLS WERE SPEAKING!
THE END!

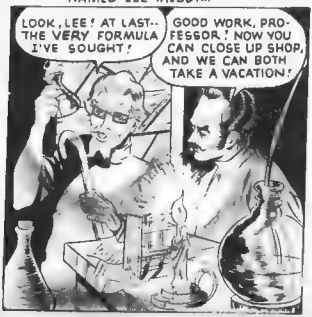
LEE TALBOT HAD A FORMULA THAT MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT HIM $1,000,000 -- BUT HE ALSO HAD---

A SKELETON in the Closet

MEMO FROM RALPH BAIRD... GHOST WRITER...
YES, I WAS A WRITER WHO "GHOSTED" STORIES FOR OTHER PEOPLE... AND NOW I'M CONTINUING MY CAREER FROM THE BEYOND! HERE IS THE SPINE-TINGLING TALE OF A FELLOW GHOST, PROFESSOR SPARTACUS DUBROW---

IT WORKS! THE FORMULA IS PERFECT! THE SECRET OF VRIL IS MINE! PROF. DUBROW SHOULD BE HERE TO SEE THIS *IN THE FLESH!*
HEHEHEHEHEH!

FOR YEARS, PROF. DUBROW HAD BEEN RUNNING THE VITREX RESEARCH FOUNDATION WITH ONLY ONE ASSISTANT, A TECHNICIAN NAMED LEE TALBOT...



YOU THOUGHT I WAS WORKING ON A FORMULA THAT WOULD PROLONG LIFE FOR PERHAPS A FEW YEARS---

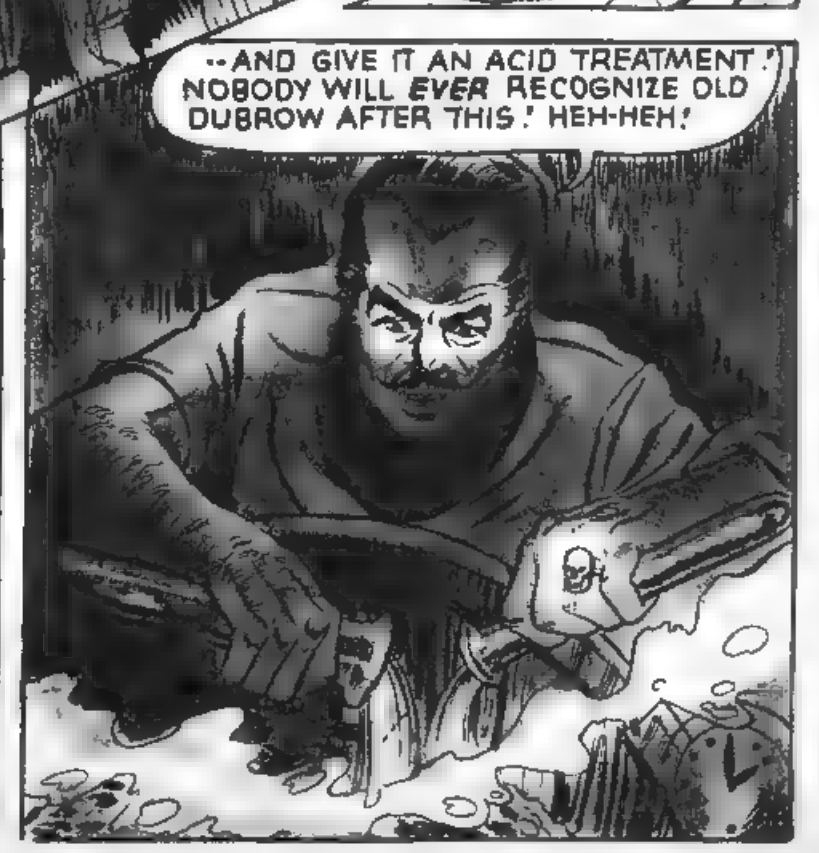
BUT INSTEAD, I WAS DEVELOPING AN *ELIXIR* TO *RESTORE* LIFE! WATCH!

THERE IS THE *LIVING PROOF* OF IT!

AS OLD PROF. DUBROW HOBBLED BACK TO HIS WORK BENCH, AN EVIL SCHEME FLASHED THROUGH LEE'S WARPED MIND...
THERE'S A FORTUNE IN IT IF I CAN GET RID OF THE OLD MAN!

AND WHEN DUBROW LAID HIS CANE ASIDE...
THESE NOTES CONTAIN MY FULL FORMULA -- THE GREATEST BOON EVER OFFERED TO MANKIND!

THAT ONE CLOUT REALLY FINISHED HIM! NOW I'LL DUMP THE BODY IN OUR CHEMICAL VAT---


--AND GIVE IT AN ACID TREATMENT! NOBODY WILL *EVER* RECOGNIZE OLD DUBROW AFTER THIS! HEH-HEH!

BY THE NEXT DAY, LEE TALBOT HAD GONE THROUGH ALL OF DUBROW'S EFFECTS...
SOME POST CARDS THE PROFESSOR ADDRESSED BUT NEVER MAILED, THE LAST TIME HE TOOK A VACATION! I'LL GO TO THOSE PLACES AND MAIL THE CARDS MYSELF! THAT WILL FOOL PEOPLE!

BUT FIRST I'D BETTER GATHER UP WHAT THE ACID LEFT OF PROF. DUBROW---

-- AND PUT IT IN THIS CLOSET THAT THE PROFESSOR ALWAYS KEPT LOCKED! I CAN SAY IT'S BEEN AROUND FOR YEARS -- WHICH IT HAS! HEH!

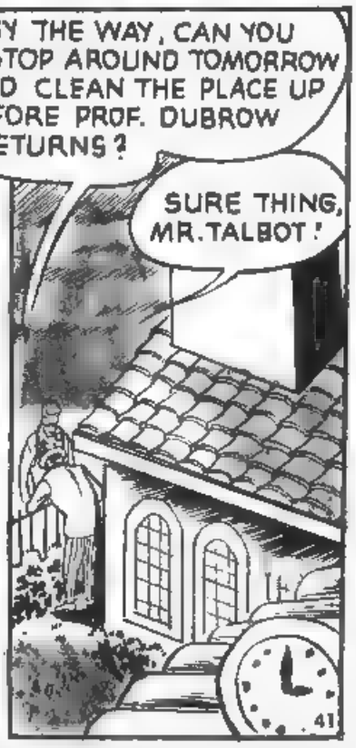
AS FOR THE CLUB I USED, I'LL STICK IT HERE IN THE YARD---

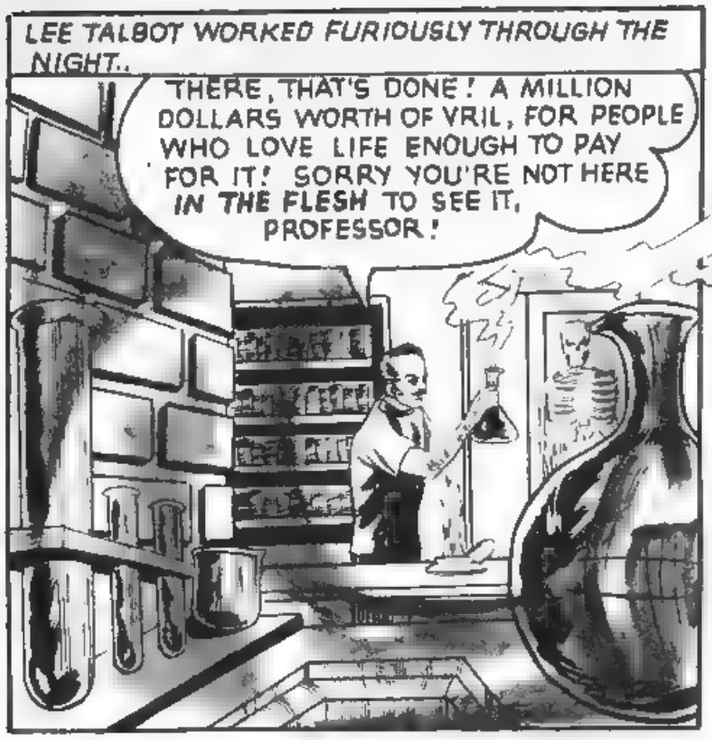
THEN POUR WHAT'S LEFT OF THE VRIL INTO THIS SPRAY GUN---

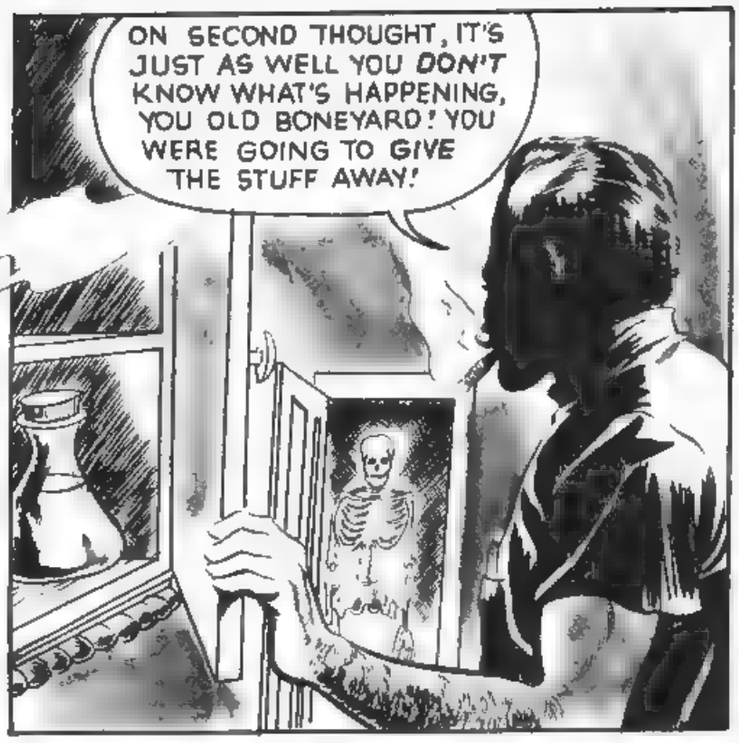
AND GIVE THE CANE A FULL-FLEDGED TREATMENT!

SO LEE TALBOT MADE A QUICK TRIP, MAILED THE POST CARDS, AND RETURNED...
OH-OH! THE BUSH IS DROOPY! LUCKY I STILL HAVE SOME VRIL IN THE SPRAY GUN!

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, MR. TALBOT? ROSE BUGS?
THAT'S RIGHT, HERVEY! ROSE BUGS!


BY THE WAY, CAN YOU STOP AROUND TOMORROW AND CLEAN THE PLACE UP BEFORE PROF. DUBROW RETURNS?
SURE THING, MR. TALBOT!


LEE TALBOT WORKED FURIOUSLY THROUGH THE NIGHT..
THERE, THAT'S DONE! A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF VRIL, FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE LIFE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR IT! SORRY YOU'RE NOT HERE IN THE FLESH TO SEE IT, PROFESSOR!


ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT'S JUST AS WELL YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, YOU OLD BONEYARD! YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE THE STUFF AWAY!

I'D BETTER LOCK YOU AWAY UNTIL HERVEY GETS HERE!

WHICH REMINDS ME, I'D BETTER FRESHEN UP OUR ROSE BUSH! WE SHOULD KEEP OUR LITTLE SECRETS, SHOULDN'T WE?

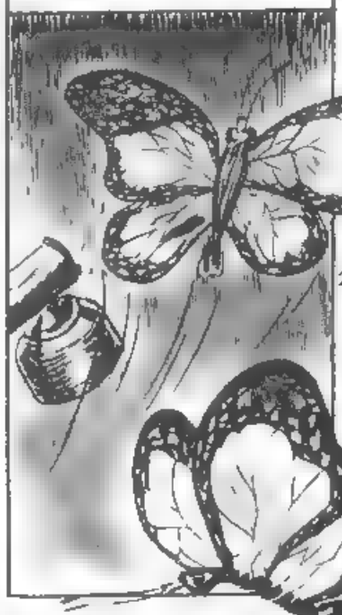
THE PROFESSOR'S FRIENDS SHOULD BE GETTING THOSE POST CARDS BY NOW! THEY'LL NEVER GUESS WHERE OR WHEN HE DISAPPEARED-- OR HOW!

SO ALL WAS SERENE AND THE PERFECT CRIME WAS WORKING TO PERFECTION, WHEN HERVEY ARRIVED FOR CLEAN-UP DUTY...
HELLO, HERVEY! THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN CLEANED FOR MONTHS, SO YOU'VE A BIG JOB AHEAD OF YOU! I'LL UNLOCK THE CLOSET, SO YOU CAN CLEAN IN THERE, TOO!

A-- A SKELETON! YOWW!
DON'T LET IT SCARE YOU! PROF. DUBROW USED IT IN HIS EXPERIMENTS! SEE YOU LATER, HERVEY!

AS HERVEY STARTED WORK, A LONE BUTTERFLY BUZZED PAST HIS NOSE...

SO THE JANITOR GRABBED THE SPRAY GUN THAT WAS LYING HANDY...


BUT AS HE TRIED TO KILL THE BUTTERFLY, OTHER INSECTS CAME TO LIFE...

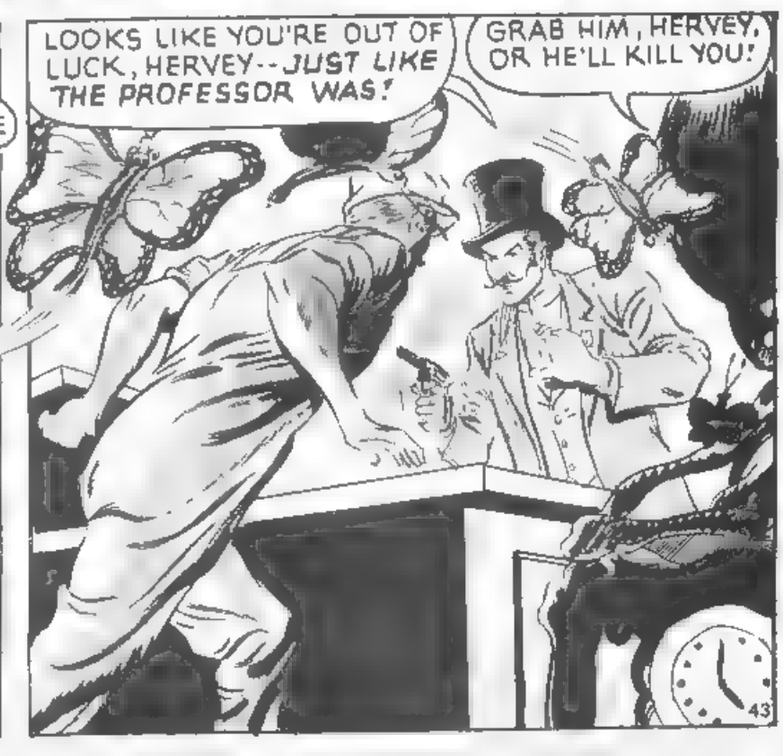
AND THE MORE HERVEY SPRAYED, THE THICKER THEY BECAME, UNTIL...

THEY'RE EVEN GETTING IN THE CLOSET! I'D BETTER CLEAN THEM OUT OF THERE--THAT'S FOR SURE!

HELLO, HERVEY--DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
THE--THE SKELETON--IT'S COME TO LIFE!

OF COURSE I'VE COME TO LIFE, HERVEY--THANKS TO YOU! I'M PROF. DUBROW! I WANT YOU TO HELP ME EVEN SCORES WITH THE MAN WHO MURDERED ME!
SURE--SURE THING, PROFESSOR!

IN THAT DRAWER, HERVEY, YOU WILL FIND A LOADED REVOLVER!
NOT IF I GET THERE FIRST, HE WON'T!


LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, HERVEY--JUST LIKE THE PROFESSOR WAS!
GRAB HIM, HERVEY, OR HE'LL KILL YOU!

TOO LATE, HERVEY!
YOUR GAME IS UP, LEE! YOU KILLED HERVEY, WHO WAS ALIVE, BUT YOU CAN'T KILL ME!
-- BECAUSE I AM ALREADY DEAD! HEHHH!
I CAN SHOOT YOU INTO CHUNKS, YOU HUMAN BONEYARD, AND BURY YOU PIECEMEAL---

BEFORE LEE TALBOT COULD CARRY OUT HIS THREAT, A SKELETON HAND CAUGHT HIS WRIST, SENDING HIS SHOTS WILD...
ONE BULLET DRILLED THE CABINET WHERE LEE HAD STORED THE VRIL, AND AS THEY STRUGGLED, THE PRECIOUS ELIXIR TRICKLED AWAY

WHY, YOU RATTLEBONES, I'LL CHOKE YOU-- AND CHOKE YOU---
TOO BAD, LEE--

-- BUT CHOKING CAN'T HURT ME! I NO LONGER HAVE A WINDPIPE -- BUT YOU DO---

SO IT'S MY TURN NOW, TO DELIVER DEATH, BEFORE THE EFFECT OF THE VRIL WEARS OFF!

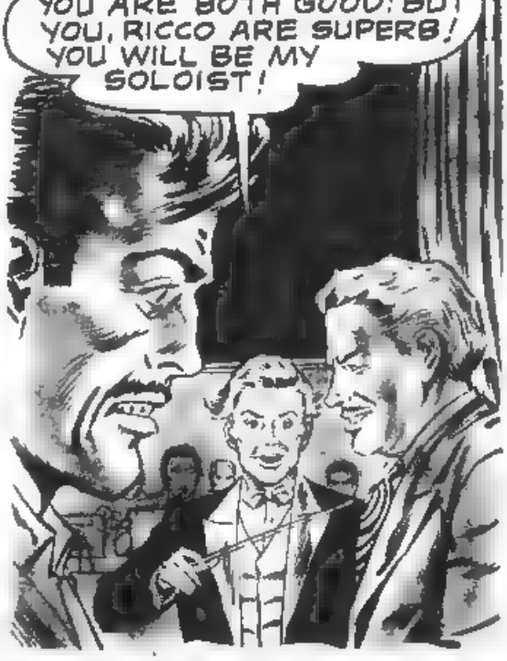
GRADUALLY, BUT SURELY, LEE TALBOT SUCCUMBED TO THE GRIP OF THOSE BONY FINGERS...
THE VRIL-- IT'S ALL LEAKED AWAY-- BUT MY FORMULA IS HERE!
I MUST MAKE MORE-- BEFORE MY TEMPORARY STRENGTH IS--IS--GONE---
BEFORE THE SKELETON HAND COULD ADD THE FINAL INGREDIENT, ITS STRENGTH GAVE OUT... AS HOURS PASSED, THE REMNANTS OF THE PRICELESS ELIXIR BOILED AWAY, WHILE THE BONES OF ITS INVENTOR LAY MOTIONLESS UPON THE FLOOR... DAYS FOLLOWED, AND FINALLY MEN CAME TO THE SILENT LABORATORY, TO FIND A STRANGE SCENE...
APPARENTLY HERVEY WAS CHOKING TALBOT TO DEATH WHEN LEE MANAGED TO SHOOT HIM! BUT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR LEE TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE!
BUT WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING OVER A SKELETON?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-- BUT NEITHER DOES THIS BATCH OF PAPERS! MIGHT AS WELL TOSS THEM IN THE STOVE!
I WONDER WHERE PROF. DUBROW WENT-- AND WHY HE LEFT HIS CANE STUCK HERE IN THE GROUND?
IT BEATS ME, TOO!
LIKE THAT YARN... HMM? -- I KNOW WHERE PROF. DUBROW WENT... DO YOU? ..WE BOTH KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAB, THOUGH-- YOUR GHOST WRITER--THAT'S ME!-- GOT THE INSIDE STORY!
PRE
the End

THE CORPSE THEY COULDN'T BURY

LEAVE ME ALONE... YOU'RE DEAD... DO YOU HEAR ME... DEAD!

HENRI MARLEAU AND GEORGE RICCO GRADUATED FROM THE SAME MUSIC CONSERVATORY WITH HIGH HONORS... LATER AT A RECORDING STUDIO...

THROUGH THE YEARS THEIR PATHS CONSTANTLY CROSS...



YEARS PASS AND THE FRUSTRATED HENRI MARLEAU BROODS IN HIS SQUALID ROOM...

I AM THE GREATEST VIRTUOSO IN THE WORLD AND RICCO IS JUST A BUM VIOLINIST!

LATER!

I AM THE MASTER AND HE PLAYS INSIDE FOR THOUSANDS WHILE I EARN PENNIES ON THIS STREET CORNER!

THE GREAT MASTER

GEORGE RICCO

AS THE AUDIENCE LEAVES...

RICCO IS GREAT!

LOOK AT THIS POOR BEGGAR! GIVE HIM A COIN, DEAR!

POOR BEGGAR, AM I? FOR THIS RICCO MUST PAY WITH HIS *LIFE!*

AFTER THE CROWD HAS DEPARTED, AN EMBITTERED AND CRAZY MARLEAU AWAITS THE UNSUSPECTING RICCO!

GEORGE RICCO
THE WORLD'S GREATEST VIOLINIST

MARLEAU *WHA...*

THE HANDS OF A TRUE ARTIST ARE VERSATILE, RICCO! HA-HA!

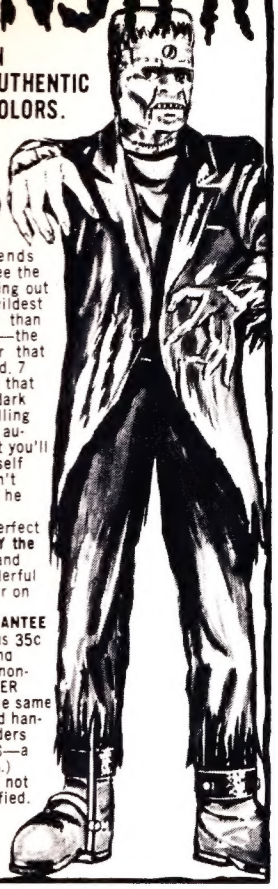
ARGGHHH!

NOW TO BURY THE BODY WHERE IT WILL NEVER BE FOUND! I'LL DRIVE YOU THERE RICCO IN YOUR OWN CAR!
THE MURDERER DRIVES HIS VICTIM TO A DESOLATE AREA...
GOODBYE, RICCO! YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR LAST PERFORMANCE!
MARLEAU STARTS BACK TO THE CITY! THEN...
HA-HA! HE'LL TORMENT ME NO MORE! WHA--SACRE BLEU! HIS VIOLIN! I MUST GO BACK!!
BURN! HA-HA! BURN!
YOUR IDIOTIC VIOLIN SHALL FOLLOW YOU, RICCO... SO THAT YOU MAY PLAY WHEREVER YOU ARE! HA! HA! HA!
CRACK!

THE NEXT EVENING AS A VAST AUDIENCE WAITS FOR RICCO, MARLEAU IN A RENTED TUX PRESENTS HIMSELF TO THE MANAGER WHO GRATEFULLY ALLOWS HIM TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ABSENT RICCO!
MY CHANCE AT LAST! NOW TO SHOW THESE IDIOTS WHAT TRUE GENIUS SOUNDS LIKE!
THE CRAZED MUSICIAN OUTDOES HIMSELF...
MAGNIFICENT! I HAVE DISCOVERED A NEW MASTER!
ENCORE, MARLEAU!
AT LAST THEY RECOGNIZE MY TALENT! MY DAYS OF PRIVATION ARE OVER!
YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MR. MARLEAU!
A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF RECITALS, CONCERTS AND RECORDING DATES FOLLOW...
HE'S ONE OF THE GREATES GENIUSES OF THE DAY!
GREAT, MARLEAU! GREAT! THIS RECORD OUGHT TO SELL A MILLION COPIES!
AS THE WORLD APPLAUDS THE NEWLY DISCOVERED GENIUS MARLEAU IS STARTLED BY AN UNEXPECTED AND UNINVITED GUEST AT AN EXCLUSIVE RECITAL...
WHAA-- NO! NO! IT CANNOT BE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MARLEAU?
NOOO...
HE MUST BE GOING MAD!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

MONSTER



7 FEET TALL / IN AUTHENTIC COLORS.

GLOW in the DARK EYES

ONLY **$1.00**

Imagine your friends shock when they see the **"MONSTER"** reaching out —sinister as the wildest nightmare. Bigger than life—Frankenstein—the man-made monster that terrorized the world. 7 feet tall, with eyes that glow eerily in the dark for a special thrilling chill. So lifelike in authentic colors, that you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers!

There is also his perfect companion—**BONEY the SKELETON**—stark and scary—just a wonderful pair to set your hair on end.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Just send $1.00 plus 35c to cover postage and handling for each monster you want. ORDER TWO AND SAVE. (The same 35c for postage and handling applies to orders for TWO MONSTERS—a total of 2 for $2.35.) Your money back if not satisfactorily horrified.

JUBIL-SCAN 2014
DEPT. 472MR94
LYNBROOK, N. Y. 11563

IMPORTED

LOCK BLADE STILETTO

- 9" Overall Length
- 5" When Closed
- Opens instantly
- Sharp and Tough
- Stainless Steel Blade

ONLY **$2.75**

Flips open instantly and locks automatically to prevent accidental closing. Razor sharp tough stainless steel blade for reliable use and hard, long service. Money back in 5 days if not satisfied. Send $2.75 plus 25¢ to cover postage and handling

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8 MM MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR

Color or Black & White

ONLY **$6.98** Complete

***FREE*: NEW THRILLING SENSATION**

Add 3-D Stereo effect with "Miracle Specs" which makes people look so full and real you can reach out and touch them. One pair comes with each projector. Additional pairs are **$2.98** each.

FEATURES:

- **Sturdy Construction**
- **Complete with Screen**
- **Projects color or black and white**
- **Speed Control for fast or slow motion**
- **Guaranteed**

HAVE ALL THE FUN OF PRIVATE MOVIES NOW AT THIS LOW PRICE

Precision engineered and compact. Completely portable in its own case. Needs no electric outlet since it is battery operated. So simple and safe to use even a child can operate it. Its double lens focusing is sure and easy for bright, clear pictures.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL—Money back guarantee on 10 day free trial. Don't delay—send $6.98 plus 75c for postage and handling or send $1.00 good will deposit and pay postman balance on delivery plus C.O.D. and postage charges. Add $2.98 for each pair of additional "Miracle Specs."

HONOR HOUSE PROD. CORP., DEPT. 472NP94
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"POWER AUTOMATIC" Pellet Firing Target Pistol

and SILENCER

FREE 50 Reusable 22 Cal. Pellets only $1.25

Rapid firing 22 cal. fully 9 inches long with the look and feel of an "undercover" automatic. Snap the "silencer" on or remove it for fast combat-type target practice. FREE 50 reusable 22 cal. pellets and supply of targets. Money back guarantee if not satisfied. Just send $1.25 plus 35c for postage and handling.

HONOR HOUSE PROD. Dept. 472PA94
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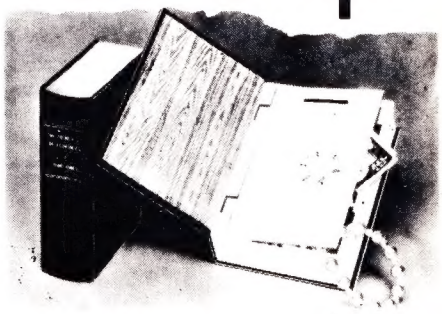
Not sold in NYC

SECRET BOOK SAFE

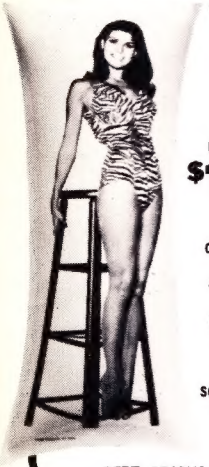
With Combination Lock Only You Can Open

ONLY **$1.00**



The Secret Book Safe looks just like any book so no one would think to look for valuables in it. But even chance discovery leaves your possessions safe — securely locked by a combination only YOU know — because YOU yourself have set it. Simple instructions show you how. Tough under structure is covered with simulated leather binding to look just like a real book. Just send $1.00 plus 35c postage and handling for each book safe you want. Money back if you are not satisfied.

HONOR HOUSE DEPT. 472BS94 LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563



RAQUEL WELCH PILLOW

ONLY **$1.98** What man wouldn't enjoy spending a night with Raquel Welch? Well, we can't deliver her, but we can deliver that next best thing —a 12" x 24" inflatable pillow of Raquel made of rugged vinyl to serve as your headrest. Keep her for yourself or show her to your friends. Livens up party when everyone sees and feels this great gag item. Just send $1.98 plus 35c shipping charges to:

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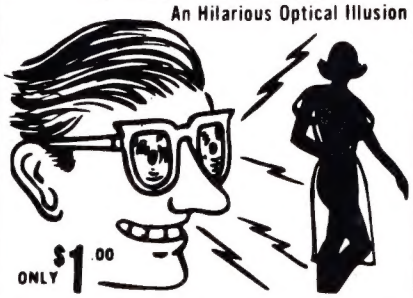
X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion



ONLY **$1.00**

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine — you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties. Send only $1 plus 25¢ shipping charges Money Back Guarantee

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WALTHER PPK 22 CAL. PELLET FIRING

only **$1.25**

"STINGER AUTOMATIC" 50-22 Cal. Pellets Free.

Looks and Feels Like Full Size "James Bond" style German Automatic **5½ inches long — 4½ inches high.** Fires 22 cal. pellets just as fast as you can pull the trigger with realistic moving slide action. Great for fast action combat—type target practice. 50 reusable 22 cal. pellets free. Free supply of targets. Money back if not satisfied. Just send $1.25 plus 25c Not sold in NY City.

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SKIN HEAD WIG

Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex to fit all heads, really changes your appearance. Just send $1.00 plus 15¢ for postage and handling.

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PELLET FIRING

LUGER® AUTOMATIC

- **MAGAZINE LOADING CLIP**
- **OVER 15 MOVING PARTS**
- **FULLY AUTOMATIC**

ONLY **$1.98**

Not Sold In New York City

Automatic full size model of a Luger Automatic pistol —contains over 15 moving parts. Loads 8 complete rounds which snap into the hard butt simulating a Luger. Fires 8 bullet shaped pellets. Has automatic slide action. **Made of heavy, high-impact styrene with amazing attention to detail.**

MOST AUTHENTIC MODEL GUN WE'VE EVER SEEN

Comes to you with working parts disassembled with cleverly engineered springs, full instructions, supply of pellets and targets. **Full Money Back Guarantee. Simply send $1.98 plus 50c shipping charge**

HONOR HOUSE CORP., 472LG94 Lynbrook, N. Y.

® T.M. Used by consent of Stoeger Arms Corp.
NY State residents add state and local sales tax.

AIEEE!
MY WORD! YOU'D THINK HE'D SEEN SOMETHING!

RAVING HYSTERICALLY, THE HORROR-STRICKEN MARLEAU STAGGERS FROM THE ROOM TOWARD HIS TERRACE, FORTY FLOORS ABOVE THE CITY!
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME! HA-HA-- NEVER...

...NEVER! AIEEEE!

GHASTLY! WHAT COULD HAVE MADE HIM DO IT? WHO WAS HE TALKING TO?
AND... AND WHAT DID HE SEE?

THOSE IN HENRI MARLEAU'S APARTMENT WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT GROTESQUE SIGHT HE SAW... A SIGHT THAT DROVE HIM TO HIS VIOLENT DEATH! BUT WHEN THEY REACHED HIS BROKEN BODY THEY S SOMETHING EQUALLY AS STARTLING... A BURNING VIOLIN!
THE END